

Questions and Answers related to current competitive RFA - PHHS Block Grant

UPDATED DECEMBER 4, 2014

1. Q: Is it permissible for applicants to choose a Healthy People 2020 objective or sub-objective aside from the priorities listed in the RFA?

A: Yes, it is permissible. Be sure to include in your application a strong justification for the selection of a different objective than those listed.

2. Q: Is it permissible to include provision of “direct services” in an application.

A: The PHHS Block Grant legislation allows provision of education, instruction, counseling to individuals and groups of person who are selected as the target recipients of those educational services. However, the PHHSBG legislation forbids direct payments to persons for participation in any program and cannot be used for “inpatient” services/care. To avoid confusion of the two types of services, it is a good idea to completely avoid using the term “direct services” in your application. Please use more precise terms such as preventive education, evidence-based instruction, self-care lessons, follow-up counseling and similar terms.

3. Q: Is it permissible to sub-contract to another agency all or most of the funds requested?

A: Yes, an applicant may choose to use a contractor to carry out some or all of the services. However, the qualified applicant would still be responsible for assuring services are carried out, reports are submitted on time and funds support only authorized and permitted uses. Please select any contractor very carefully, based on their capacity to carry out the work proposed in the time available. You should also explain in your application why the services cannot be carried out by your own staff and why it’s better to pass through the funds to another agency/entity.

4. Q: Would it be a “conflict of interest” for an agency or organization that has a member on the Preventive Health Advisory Committee to submit an application for these competitive funds?

A: No, it would not be a conflict of interest for your agency to apply for funds. Since the start, some members of the Preventive Health Advisory Committee have represented agencies that also received funding.

On those rare occasions when we have had sufficient funds to offer for competitive application, we never asked our Advisory Committee members to make final funding decisions on applications. We have informed members of the ranking of applications by the review committee, and asked only for their comment and collective concurrence. In fact, we have asked our members to exclude themselves from voting whenever there is any appearance of conflict of interest in a vote taken by the Advisory Committee.

5. Q: On the PHHS Block Grant webpage, there is a link to “Online SMART Objective Tool” that doesn’t work. Will you fix the link or send an alternative?

A: Links below may be of help:

Click on this link (Ctrl + Click) <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/evaluation/tutorials.htm>
Then click on “Writing Good Goals and SMART Objectives Tutorial” in the center of the page.
Then click on “Tools” icon at the top of the page to see the “Evaluation Brief 3: Goals and Objectives Checklist” and “List of Precise Verbs Job Aid”

Alternatively, you can click the following SMART Tool links:

“Writing Good Goals and SMART Objectives Tutorial”
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/evaluation/tutorials.htm>

“Evaluation Brief 3: Goals and Objectives Checklist”
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/evaluation/pdf/brief3.pdf>

“List of Precise Verbs Job Aid”
http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/tutorials/writinggoal/docs/wgg_verb-list.pdf

6. Q: I am interested in applying for the PHHS Block Grant, but would like to find some more information on the projects that are currently funded. Can you supply me with any information on the 30 projects that are currently receiving funding?

A: I have asked our webmaster to insert a table showing current awards and the list of brief descriptions. They should be posted on the PHHSBG webpage by Fri Nov 21.

7. Q: The cancer objectives listed in the RFA do not match the ones that appear on the HP2020 website. Can you please clarify which objective is a priority for this project?

A: Some of the HP2020 objectives have been revised since the RFA was issued.

Please select from one of the current versions of the following cancer objectives in your application.

C-20.4 Reduce the proportion of adults aged 18 and older who report using artificial sources of ultraviolet light for tanning

C-20.6 Increase the proportion of adults aged 18 years and older who follow protective measures that may reduce the risk of skin cancer

8. Q: We want to produce signs (metal enameled, on metal poles) as part of an educational campaign. Is this expense allowable? (Two potential applicants asked similar versions of this question.)

A: Refer to the section (b) (3) of the PHHS Block Grant highlighted below. A previous CDC Project Officer interpreted that section to forbid such things as paving walking track, because it was long-lasting, or close to “permanent” improvement in a facility. On the other hand, short-lived items like vinyl signs and banners were not interpreted as “permanent” improvements to a facility. Since we lack sufficient time to seek a

specific answer from our current CDC Project Officer, I advise you not to include metal signage in your application budget.

(b) Prohibited uses

A State may not use amounts paid to it under section 300w–2 of this title to—

- (1) provide inpatient services,
- (2) make cash payments to intended recipients of health services,
- (3) purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment,
- (4) satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-Federal funds as a condition for the receipt of Federal funds, or
- (5) provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or nonprofit private entity.

9. Q: The RFA states on page 11 and page 12 under Use of Funds, as well as under on page 18 under Line Item Budget that Indirect is an allowable cost. However, on page 23, Form D, it states:

(Match/Indirect Cost should NOT be shown in the budget.) Which is correct?

A. The final line on page 23 is incorrect. It should read: Match/**In-kind** Cost should NOT be shown in the budget. As stated at the bottom of page 11 and page 18, Applicants are allowed to claim up to 10% indirect but should not list any match or in-kind (sometimes called hard or soft match) in their budget or justification.